

BALTIMORE CITY--COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

CDBG SURVEY YEAR:
AREA: Mount Vernon Historic District

SURVEY NO.: B-1546
MAGI NO.: 0415465511

ADDRESS: 30 - 36 West Biddle Street
CURRENT NAME: Albert Gunther Hardware



BLOCK: 483 LOT: 7 - 10
HEIGHT: 3 stories
CONDITION: Fair to good

LOT SIZE: 37' x 88'-3" (ea.)
MATERIALS: Brick
OWNER: Albert Gunther, Inc.
ADDRESS: 36 West Biddle Street
ACCESSIBLE: Yes
LIBER/FOLIO: GR 406, 473-494

USE: Commercial
DESIGNATION:

HISTORIC NAME:
DATE: 1868 - 1869
ARCHITECT/BUILDER: /Michael Roche
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE): Second Empire

DESCRIPTION:

The Albert Gunther Hardware building in central Baltimore City are a row of four three-bay, three-story brick buildings. Both 30 and 32 have slate Mansard roofs with two pedimented dormers, while 34 and 36 have flat roofs, the Mansards having been removed. The second and third stories of each have three rectangular 9/9 wood sash with projecting sills. The first stories of each have been altered: 30 has glass block in the original window openings and an altered doorframe with a lowered door; 32 has glass block in all three openings; in 34 all openings have been bricked in; and in 36 one door and window have been bricked in while the other window has been knocked out to create a large doorway. All of the brick is painted a cream color.

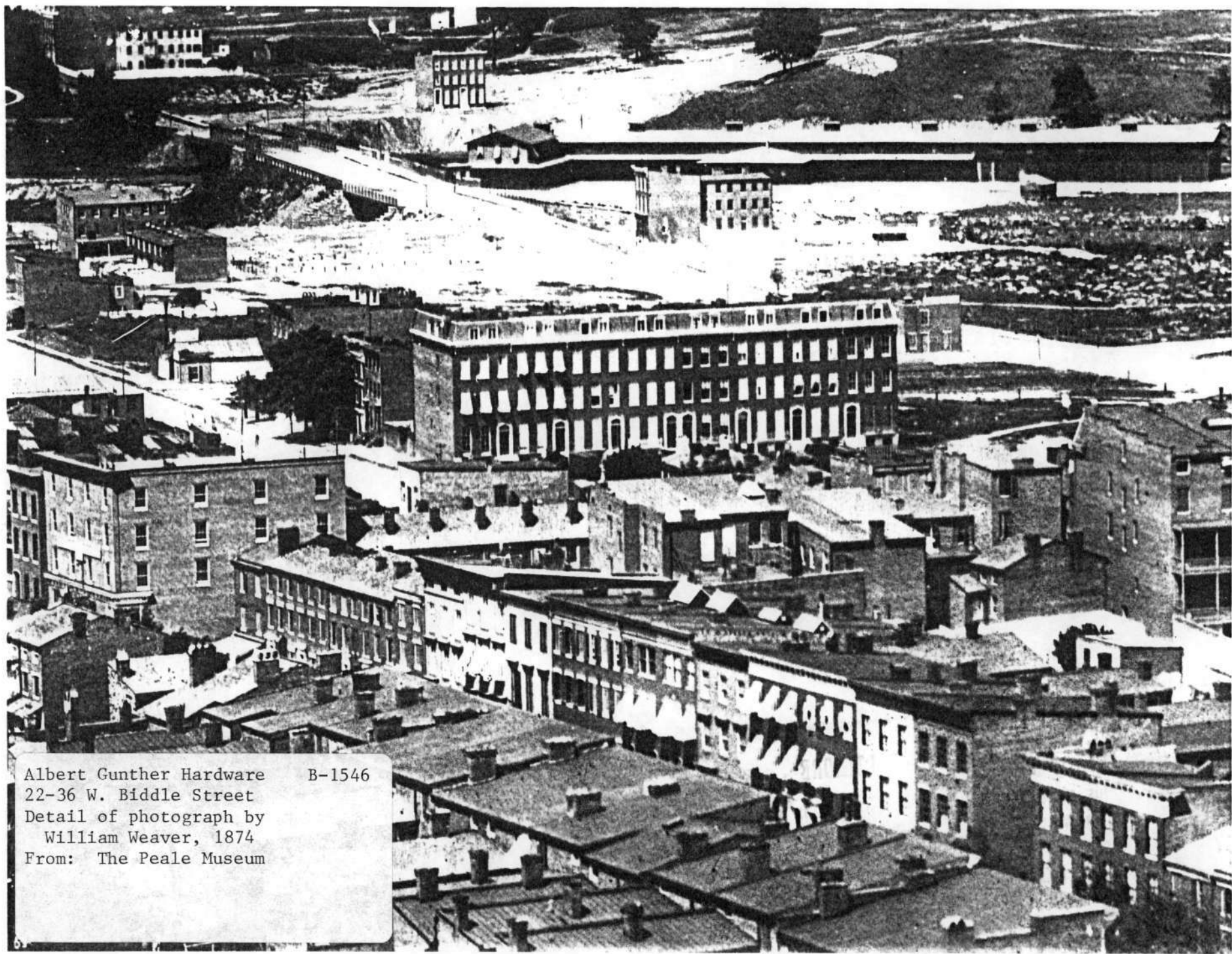
SIGNIFICANCE:

AREA: Architecture LEVEL: Local

The Albert Gunther Hardware buildings, 30-36 W. Biddle St. in Mt. Vernon are four of an original eight rowhouses constructed in 1868-69 by builder Michael Roche. The buildings at 22-28 W. Biddle have been demolished. The land had been owned by attorney William F. Frick since 1844, but apparently was not improved until leased by Roche for a ground rent of \$112 per lot. All eight houses were built simultaneously, although 36 W. Biddle was apparently the first to be started and became the standard for the others. This building was sold to George M. Gill, an attorney, but he never lived here and probably rented the building to others. Thirty-four W. Biddle was purchased by Marcella Mactavish, but she too never resided there. William H. Greenway, William W. T. Greenway, and Edward M. Greenway together purchased 32 W. Biddle and were living there by 1870. Elizabeth Duckett was the original owner of 30 W. Biddle, but she too apparently never lived there. If these homes were purchased primarily for the rental market, they were by no means cheap buildings. The interior houses in the row sold for \$8,125 and the corner buildings for \$9,125. The ample accommodations of the buildings are evident, too, from the agreement between Roche and Stewart Brown, an attorney who purchased and resided in the other corner building at 22 W. Biddle (see addenda). A similar agreement was drawn up and recorded for 32 W. Biddle St., and mention is made of an agreement for 36 W. Biddle St., as well, although that one has not been uncovered. The original appearance of the buildings can be seen in an 1874 photograph of the area taken by William Weaver from the steeple of the First Presbyterian Church (see attachment). The Gunther Hardware Co. moved into 36 W. Biddle St. in the 1920's and periodically expanded to the east.

SOURCES: Land records, city directories

SURVEYOR AND DATE: Kenneth M. Short, December 1988



Albert Gunther Hardware B-1546
22-36 W. Biddle Street
Detail of photograph by
William Weaver, 1874
From: The Peale Museum

MC 3009

CREDIT LINE:

THE PEALE MUSEUM, BALTIMORE

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225 N. Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202



B-1456

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

MAGI #0415465611

B-1546

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: 30-30 West Biddle Street				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: 30 West Biddle Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY:		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Albert Gunther Realty Company				
STREET AND NUMBER: 30-32 West Biddle Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore		STATE: Maryland		21201
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Records Office, Room 601				
STREET AND NUMBER: Baltimore City Courthouse				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore		STATE: Maryland		21202
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): JFC 1382-287				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1975 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Commission for Hist. & Arch. Pres.				
STREET AND NUMBER: Room 900, 26 S. Calvert Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore		STATE: Maryland		21202

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncolored		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This row house which is located at the end of the group and is three stories high and $3\frac{1}{2}$ bays wide, and has a Mansard roof. The exterior is common brick with stone water table. The other significant architectural element, the doorway is located on the right and is rectangular in shape.

Symmetrical fenestration, first story bricked up; second and third story 3 rectangular windows, 9 over 9 with flat brick lintels and stone sills.

32 West:

This rowhouse is three stories high and $3\frac{1}{2}$ bays wide. The exterior of the Mansard building is laid in common bond accented by flat brick lintels and stone sills. The windows and door are bricked, and the 2nd and 3rd story windows carry 9/9 rectangular lights.

34 West:

Identical to 32 West with the exception of the first floor, here composed of alternating brickwork.

36 West:

This building forms the northeast corner of Maryland Avenue and Biddle Street. It is identical in the upper stories to 32 West Preston. A modern glass door with side lights and a transom fills the first floor left bay. The first floor windows are composed of alternating brickwork.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

See 1200 ^N Charles Street.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Rebecca Albaugh

ORGANIZATION

Commission for Hist. & Arch. Pres.

DATE

9/14/75

STREET AND NUMBER:

Room 900, 26 S. Calvert Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

21202

12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

The contract in the land records (GR 401-118) stated that Roche . . . agrees to finish and complete said house in a good, substantial, and workmanlike manner, and to use for said purpose proper and suitable materials according to the following general design or plan, to wit: The basement story of said house to be finished with a kitchen about fifteen feet with a store room connected therewith and a small room between the kitchen and front cellar with a side light. [T]he cellar is to be paved. The first story is to have a parlor to be about thirteen by twenty-five feet, also to have a butler's pantry about eight by five feet with side light, with a door connecting with the dining room, and to be properly finished with shelves and other requisite fixtures, including a dumb waiter. The dining room in the rear of the Butlers pantry to be about fifteen by eighteen feet. [U]pon the second story there shall be two chambers, one in front and one in rear of the house, a dressing room attached to the front chamber and a bathroom attached to the dressing room. The front room shall be (16) sixteen by eighteen feet, the dressing room about six feet by fourteen feet, and the bathroom about eight by five feet. The dressing room and bath room to be suitably lighted by windows on the side and the windows of bathroom to have ground glass therein. The chamber over the dining room to be about eighteen by fifteen feet. The third story to be like the second story except in the following particulars, viz: The dressing room to have a linen closet attached thereto as is now arranged in the dressing room of the house on corner of Decker Street [Maryland Avenue], and the small room over the bathroom to be finished in like manner but not to be a bathroom unless so made at the expense of the purchaser. The garret to have two small rooms front and one small room back. There are to be two porches in the rear on first and second stories, each (6) six by eighteen feet, to be finished as those in the house occupied by George Presbury on Charles Street. [T]he general style and character of the work and materials in said house to correspond with the work and materials in the house occupied by Henry Pendexter on Eager Street, which was built by said Michael Roche, and said house to be in all respects in finish work and materials and convenience with the house at the corner of Decker and Biddle Street now being built by said Roche. [A]nd said Roche agrees that the work and materials to be used in finishing said house shall be good substantial

and suitable and more particularly in the following particulars, which however are a part only of the general finish and completion of said house, to wit: The flooring lumber, windows, window frames, shutters, doors to of the best material and properly fitted; the walls to be well plastered with three coats of Plaster, the last coat to be white; the woodwork where it is proper to paint the same, to be painted with at least three coats of paint; the backyard to be properly graded and paved, and to be enclosed back to said three-foot alley with a substantial Plank fence and to have a gate on Morton Alley. [T]he kitchen to be finished with a range and fixtures for hot and cold water, with suitable pipes for conveying the same to the bathroom and water closet upon the first floor. [T]he parlor shall be suitably finished in workmanlike manner and have a marble mantelpiece and have solid inside shutters and a balcony. There shall be a bathroom on the second floor, located as before mentioned, to have all the proper and necessary fixtures and to contain a suitable bath tub, and with hot and cold water, to be properly lighted from the side with a window with ground glass therein, and to have a gas burner therein, and to have a water closet, all complete and likewise to be so arranged that a flue from the furnace may be introduced therein. [T]he same arrangement of furnace flue to be made in third story, if required, and suitable arrangements for flues in the first story, if required. Gas pipes are to be introduced into suitable places in each room of said house, including: the garret rooms; in the front chamber, on second and third floors, on each side of middle windows; and in the back chamber, on second floor, in the ceiling. All the water and gas pipes introduced upon the premises or into said house to be of sufficient calibre and strength to afford a plentiful supply of both water and gas and to resist the pressure of said water and gas thereon. The whole is to be finished and completed by said Roche in manner aforesaid, and possession thereof given on or before the first day of May A.D. 1869 . . . [Punctuation added by author]

"Roche likewise expressly covenants that in case the present arrangement of the water spouting on said property and that adjacent thereto should be found to be defective or not of sufficient calibre of suitable and convenient construction to convey off the rain fall without inconvenience or damage . . . then Roche will fix it."

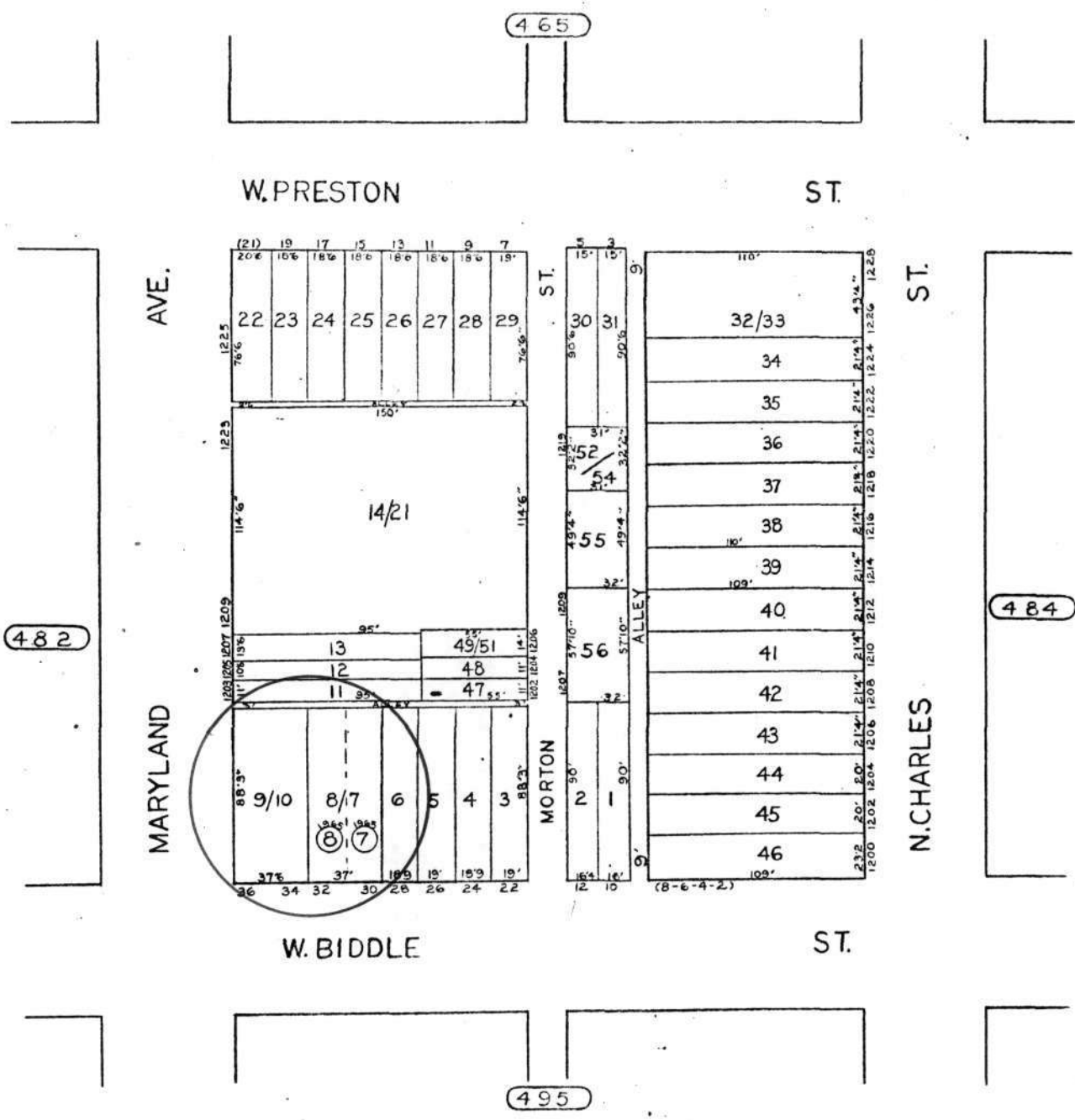
Baltimore City Land Records, GR 419-30.

"Improvements in Northwest Baltimore. - During the past year, in that section of the city between Charles street and Bolton Depot, a number of improvements have been made, and what formerly was a vast open common is being rapidly occupied by comfortable dwellings. Among other improvements, a recent stroll in that vicinity brought to notice a row of first-class dwellings in course of completion on Biddle street, east of Decker, and on making inquiry, it was learned that they were being erected by Mr. Michael Roche, well known as a builder of the finest dwellings in that section of the city. These houses, eight in number, have a front each of nineteen feet, the lot extending back one hundred feet. They are each three-story in height, exclusive of the basement, and have the new style French, or **Mansard** roof. The fronts are of fine pressed brick, with marble ashlar, steps, &c. They have been built of the best materials, and are provided with all the requisites of a comfortable dwelling house. Already four of them have been disposed of. In the course of a short time it is expected that there will be but few unimproved lots in that vicinity, as property is increasing in value each successive year."

The American, 6 January 1869, p. 4, col. 5.

Kenneth M. Short, March 1989

REVISIONS
LOTS 7 & 8 FOUND PER APP. C. 54. 9.333

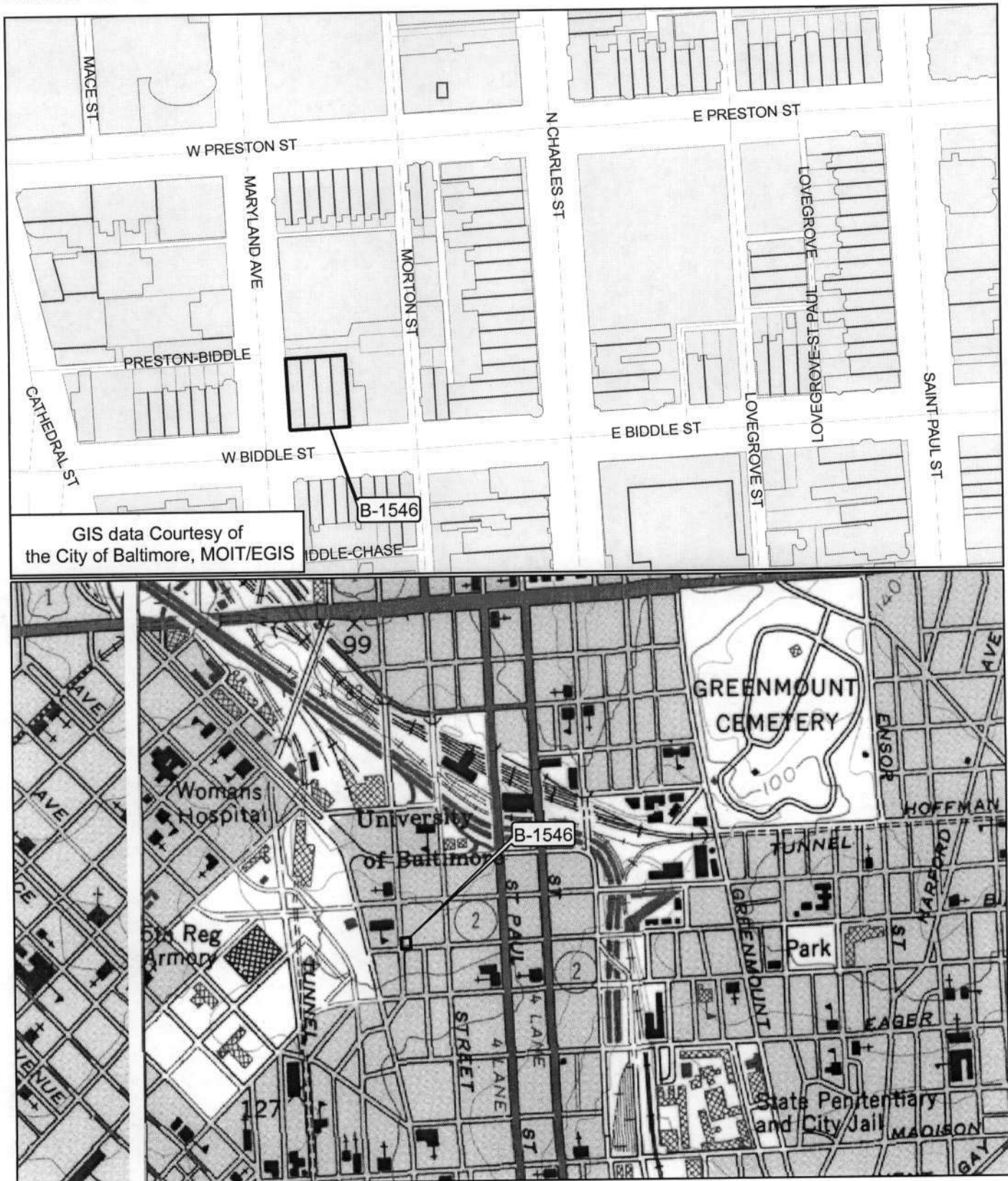


TRACED BY P.W.
LETTERED BY P.W.
CHECKED BY

NOTICE
THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED
FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(d) OF THE CITY CHARTER
IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER
SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

CITY OF BALTIMORE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION
WARD II SECTION I
BLOCK 483
SCALE 1"=50' DATE SEPT. 1966

B-1546
Albert Gunther Hardware
30-36 W. Biddle Street
Block 0483, Lots 003 & 009
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





Albert Gunther Hardware

B-1546

30-36 W. Biddle Street

Mount Vernon Historic District

Baltimore (City), Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: November 1988

Neg. loc: Maryland Historical Trust

South elevation

1/1



B-1546

BLOCK 483
NEG. # ~~3~~(3) 12
RICHARD COLE
SEPT. 1975

30-36 W. BIDDLE ST.